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NSC BRIEFING

5 October 1954

PROBABLE SOVIET REACTION TO LONDON CONFERENCE

I. Initial Soviet reaction to London agreements sets short-term propaganda line, but fails indicate diplomatic countermoves.

A. Comment calls "attempt bring back EDC under another name."

B. Criticizes British, French leaders for ignoring wishes of people, deprecates "sensational concessions by Britain."

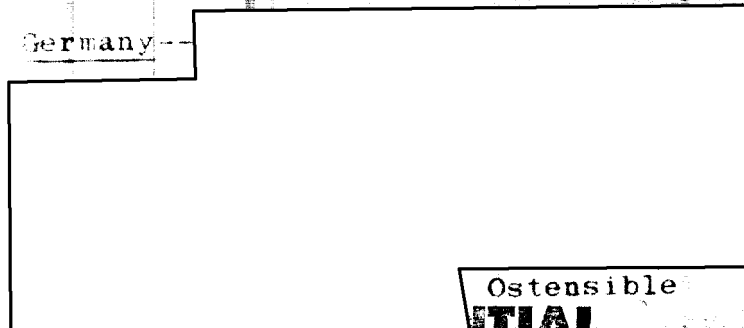
C. Stresses incompatibility of London agreements with German reunification, primarily for benefit of German listeners.

II. Probable main Soviet counter-moves will make France principal diplomatic, propaganda target.

a. Immediate aim--have French delay final reunification pending further Four Power talks.

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- B. To make talks appear attractive, USSR already "modifying" earlier stands on disarmament, Austria, Germany.
 - C. Disarmament--Vyshinsky's (30 September) UN offering meant as substantial concession. Molotov passed advance copy to French, remarked "account must be taken of the German problem."
 - D. Austria--USSR presently offering bait to induce Austrians resume bilateral talks. Still insists troops remain after treaty, but propaganda now talks of "limits" on these forces, or total withdrawal under Moscow-sponsored European security plan.
 - E. Germany--



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Soviet acceptance of free elections principle could revive talks on Germany.

III. These and possibly other issues (such as European security) may mark new Soviet call for Four Power negotiations.

A. Call could be reply to Western note of 9 September, timed to influence French Assembly debate on London agreement (expected in early November).

B. Meanwhile, Communist propaganda will nourish French doubts over British and American commitments at London and Adenauer's "self-imposed" restrictions.

C. Moscow also hopes French opposition to Germany in NATO will delay final participation.

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- D. Soviet propaganda noles that "fact that French Parliament two years ago decided West Germany must not be admitted to the Atlantic bloc will provide a great stumbling bloc... ."
- E. French Communist press hopefully predicts that "popular action" will render London agreement a "dead-letter, as EDC is a dead-letter."

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